

January 2

Matthew 2:1-23^(AKJV)

“Plans, Prophecies, & Places”



2:2

Men, who came from the **east**, went to Jerusalem asking where the newborn King of the Jews could be found since they had seen “**his star in the east**”.

From where

2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus **it is written by the prophet**, 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of

in the
"east" did
they come?

How many
men were
there?

How did
they know
what "his
star"
looked
like?

2:3 – 2:6

Why did
the Jewish
leaders
readily tell
Herod
where the
King was
located?

Juda, art not the least among the
princes of Juda: for out of thee
shall come a Governor, that shall
rule my people Israel. ^{2:7} Then
Herod, when he had privily called
the wise men, inquired of them
diligently what time the star
appeared. ^{2:8} And he sent them to
Bethlehem, and said, Go and
search diligently for the young
child; and when ye have
found him, bring me word again,
that I may come and worship him
also. ^{2:9} When they had heard the
king, they departed; and, lo, the
star, which they saw in the east,
went before them, till it came and
stood over where the young child
was. ^{2:10} When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with exceeding great
joy. ^{2:11} And when they were come
into the house, they saw the young
child with Mary his mother, and fell
down, and worshipped him: and
when they had opened their

2:7

Why did
Herod want
to know
“what time
the star
appeared”
and why is no
answer given
to that
question in
this account?

2:9 – 2:12

Knowing Herod
had bad
motives in
wanting to
locate the King,
why did the star
lead the men
directly to the
young child?

Did God allow
innocent
children to be
killed by an

treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. ^{2:12} And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. ^{2:13} And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. ^{2:14} When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: ^{2:15} And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. ^{2:16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent

evil leader?

Prophecies Fulfilled:

Matthew 2:

- 5,6
- 15
- 16-18
- 23

Royal Travels:



From
Bethlehem of
Judea to Egypt



To just inside
Israel

forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. ^{2:17} Then was **fulfilled** that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, ^{2:18} In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. ^{2:19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ^{2:20} Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. ^{2:21} And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. ^{2:22} But when he heard that Archelaus did



To Galilee of
Israel



To Nazareth
of Israel.

reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: ^{2:23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.



In reading Scripture (with a heart to understand) it's not unusual to have questions. Questions such as, "why did God allow innocent babies to be killed"

and "why did Joseph and Mary have to go through all of those stresses and changes?" are reasonable queries and asking such should be validated—even where inquiries they cannot be easily answered or explained.

One note about this passage is worth remembering. Not only are God's thoughts and ways, not the same as those of humans, but this gives a clear picture of how unbalanced, unstable, unclear, and unfair Believers may find their own situations. Often, lives which are set to bring glory to God, do not operate as smoothly as one may desire.

Sometimes God is doing things that may bring us great sadness and pain. Sometimes we just can't understand what's happening or know what to do any more than Mary and Joseph did until the Lord directs and brings events into the exact position as God would have it.

We need to remain open to God's guidance in our plans, in God's prophecies, and in all the places we may find ourselves.